

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 32 are objected to and Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-18, 22, 23, 25 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12-18, 22, 23, 25 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-73035 and over U.S. Patent no. 4,543,430. Specifically, the Office Action suggests that JP 56-73-35 discloses a process of reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst that contains titanium or zirconium and that U. S. Patent no. 4,543,430 discloses a process of reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst that contains zirconium.

Claim 1 has been amended and now reads in part "reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst of the formula MA_x wherein M is a Group IIIB, rare earth metal, actinide or hafnium cation". Claim 19 has been amended and now reads in part "reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst of the formula $M'B_x$ wherein M' is a Group IIIB, rare earth metal, actinide or hafnium cation". Claim 25 has been amended and now reads in part "reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst of the formula $M''A_xB_y$ wherein M'' is a Group IIIB, rare earth metal, actinide or hafnium cation".

Support for these changes in language is found on page 11, lines 14-15 of the Specification and Claim 6 as originally filed. None of these changes constitute new matter since this clarification of the claims is supported by the original disclosure.

Claim 1 has also been amended in that "L" has been deleted and replaced by "M". This change corrects an inadvertent typographical or clerical error which occurred in the original transcription of the patent application as filed.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 32 are objected to as being allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim. The applicants assume that Claims 24, 26 and 27 which are not mentioned in the Office Action are also objected to as being allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 19 and 25 have been amended to put the claims in condition for allowance by incorporating subject matter from Claims 6, 20 and 26, respectively, which were found to have allowable subject matter.

The Applicants believe that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that the applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time. If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due by filing this paper or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 502025.

SERIAL NO. 10/619,127
VAN HAL, RAMPRASAD

PATENT APPLICATION
STC-01-0007

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested and its allowance requested at the examiner's earliest convenience. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Wheelington", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Wheelington
Reg. No. 33,051

SABIC Americas, Inc.
SABIC Technology Center
1600 Industrial Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
(281) 207-5719
Customer No. 30691